

Interagency Task Force for the Economic Development of the San Joaquin Valley, California

By Executive Order # 13173 Implemented by President Bush Feb 5, 2002

Chair: Richard Rainey, Regional Director, US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Coordinator: Rollie Smith, Fresno Area Field Office Director

Purpose of Task Force in Executive Order:

"The purpose of the Task Force is to coordinate and improve existing Federal efforts for the Valley, in concert with locally led efforts, in order to increase the living standards and the overall economic performance of the Valley. Economic development efforts shall include consideration of the preservation or enhancement of the natural environment and natural resources of the Valley."

Duties of Task Force in Executive Order: "Specifically, the Task Force shall:

- (1) Analyze programs and policies of Task Force member agencies that relate to the Valley to determine what changes, modifications, and innovations should be considered, if any;
- (2) Consider statistical and data analysis, research, and policy studies related to the Valley;
- (3) Develop, recommend, and implement short-term and long-term options for promoting sustainable economic development;
- (4) Consult and coordinate activities with State, tribal, and local governments, community leaders, Members of Congress, the private sector, and other interested parties, paying particular attention to maintaining existing authorities of the States, tribes, and local governments, and preserving their existing working relationships with other agencies, organizations, or individuals;
- (5) Coordinate and collaborate on research and demonstration priorities of Task Force member agencies related to the Valley;
- (6) Integrate Federal initiatives and programs into the design of sustainable economic development actions for the Valley; and
- (7) Focus initial efforts on pilot communities for implementing a coordinated and expedited Federal response to local economic development and other needs."

Long Term Goals for San Joaquin Valley as established by the Task Force:

1. Increase public and private investment.
2. Increase personal wealth, lower poverty, raise employment and wage rate.
3. Increase literacy: financial and reading.
4. Increase the capacity of public agencies, non-profits, and businesses to apply for funds and to implement programs and projects
5. Increase citizenship and civic participation.
6. Improve infrastructure and increase affordable housing.
7. Clean air and water, better and coordinated development planning.

Strategies as established by the Task Force:

- **Jobs Initiative:** This initiative is headed by DOL and HUD to ready the workforce and create jobs in relation to business and labor. The Task Force is the federal agency participant in the Regional Jobs Initiative, an industry led initiative to create 30,000 jobs in four years, and aims to spread the Initiative throughout the Valley..
- **Clean Air/Energy Efficiency Initiative:** This initiative headed by EPA, Energy, and DOT has developed a strategy to clean the air and build industry in energy efficiency and environmental clean up in such a way that new jobs are created and a major obstacle to economic growth is eliminated.
- **Financial Education Initiative:** An initiative headed by FRB, FDIC, and OCC working through congregations, community associations, and community based organizations to get people banked,

receiving returns from IRS, achieving credit, and into homeownership. This is the Task Force's grass roots efforts tied to leadership development and community strengthening in low-income urban neighborhoods and rural communities. The objective is to have 5000 persons, especially minorities, newly banked and on the road to credit and homeownership.

- **New Central Valley Project:** An initiative to rehabilitate the public utilities infrastructure throughout the Valley especially in the rural areas.
- **Local County Listening Sessions:** The Task Force meets every two months in one of the region's counties with key agents of economic development to discuss specific projects that may need federal agency attention

Central Valley Initiative Partners:

- **For job creation:** RJI Leadership team, Business Councils, Central Labor Council, Workforce Investment Boards, Cities and Counties, Manufacturer's Council, EDCs
- **For clean energy projects:** Strategic Energy Innovations, Great Valley Center, CSU/UC, Lawrence Berkeley Labs., local jurisdictions, Housing Authorities, developers, businesses
- **For financial education, asset creation:** RCAC, financial institutions, employers (EAP), Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Housing Authorities, and other non profit counseling agencies
- **For community accountability & leadership.** Relational Culture Institute, congregations, neighborhoods, rural CB leadership, community development corporations
- **For State Collaboration:** State of California Interagency Task Force

Individual Agency Strategies and Contact Persons for Task Force

- **HHS**—Health industry cluster -- Emory Lee
- **HUD**—Increase homeownership, end rural homelessness -- Rollie Smith, Lidia Mena-Hermida
- **EPA**—improve air quality and promote agricultural sustainability--Tom Kelly, Kathy Diehl
- **DOL**—Increase quantity and quality of employment centers--Juan Regalado
- **SBA**—Increase the access to capital for small businesses--Ron Truly
- **SSA**—insure that low income families attain financial stability—Paula Singer
- **IRS**—make sure low income people receive tax refunds owed--Mary Ronnell
- **Treasury**—Financial education, new markets tax credits--Julia Brown, Pat Krackov
- **USDA**—Increase capacity and quality of rural cities--Sally Tripp
- **DOC/EDA**—Increase planning and support for local ED projects--Deena Sosson, Diane Church
- **Education**—No Child Left Behind Initiative; literacy--Mary Jane Pearson
- **Energy**—Increase energy efficiency and capacity--Paul Johnson,
- **DOI**—Westlands mitigation, water infrastructure--Tracy Rowland
- **DOJ**—Increase community based justice programs--Ann Kromberg
- **DOT**—Increase funding to transit and non-profit transportation providers--Paul Page
- **FDIC**—Increase financial education especially among minorities--Linda Ortega
- **Federal Reserve Bank**—Increase Financial Education among minorities--John Olson

Congressional Delegation Offices: Devin Nunes, Jim Costa, George Radanovich, Dennis Cardoza.

White House Liaison: Rubin Barrales

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07/20/04